(b) if so, whether Government had announced to make the Wajirabad bridge double laned but despite the passing of 8th death anniversary of those children on 18th November, 2005, the work of doubling of the bridge has not been initiated, so far, and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that many flyovers have been constructed in the capital after this fatal accident but despite such a tragedy; and

(d) if so, the reasons for delay in commencement of the construction work of the above bridge?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Commissioner of Police, Delhi has reported that a road accident had occurred in the month of November, 1997 on Wajirabad bridge in which a number of school children had died.

(b) The Public Works Department (PWD) of Government of NCT of Delhi (GNCTD) has reported that initially there was a proposal to increase the width of the existing bridge. However, after technical feasibility studies, the proposal for constructing a separate bridge along the downstream side of the existing bridge was found suitable. Delhi Tourism and Transportation Development Corporation (DTTDC) has prepared detailed project estimates and submitted the same to the Government of NCT of Delhi for approval/sanction, the completion period fo the project is about 3½ years after the approval of the project.

(c) and (d) It is a fact that flyovers have been constructed in Delhi even after 1997. However, as reported by PWD, Delhi construction of a bridge over river Yamuna is a bigger project in comparison to flyovers on road and requires detailed studies and clearances from several agencies. Therefore, it involves a longer gestation period.

Low standard of education

†*278. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the existing schools education and distance education system is of low standard;

(b) if so, Government's assessment in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government have resolved to improve this standard; and

(d) if so, the time limit fixed for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (d) There is always scope for improving quality of school and distance education in the country, however, the education system cannot be considered of being low quality. The Government are committed to effecting improvements in the system. However, it is a continuous process, and no time limit can be laid down in this regard.

Use of Hindi in courts

*279. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of High Courts conducting their business in Hindi;

(b) whether there is any phased programme for the Supreme Court/ High Courts to gradually conduct their judicial work in Hindi; and

(c) if so, whether Government would, in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, lay a time schedule for the same?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) Article 348 (1) (a) of the Constitution of India provides that all proceedings in the Supreme Court and in every High Court shall be in English language until Parliament by law otherwise provides.

Under Article 348(2), the Governor of the State may with the previous consent of the President, authorize the use of the Hindi language or any other language used for any official purpose of State, in the proceedings of the High Court having its principal seat in that State.

In four States namely; Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan the use of Hindi language has been authorized for the proceedings of the Hingh Courts.

No law has since been made in this regard by the Parliament, therefore, English continues to be the language for all the proceedings of the Supreme Court.

The matter of use of Hindi in the proceedings of the Supreme Court has been examined by the Department of Official Language in consultation with the Registry of the Supreme Court. With respect to a reference made by Department of Official Language, the Registrar, Supreme Court of India